

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 07634 261754Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
MCT-01 USSS-00 SY-05 HA-05 /090 W
-----060214 261756Z /43

P R 261600Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2342
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
COMSIXTHFLT
DIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
SHAPEUSNR
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USDOCOSOUTH
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AFOSI DIST 65 ROME IT/IVOA
HQ AFOSI WASHDC/IVOAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 7634

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: ITALIAN REACTION TO UNSYG'S APPEAL TO RED BRIGADES

1. UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM'S SECOND APPEAL FOR
MORO'S LIFE IF BEING STRONGLY CRITICIZED IN POLITICAL AND
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 07634 261754Z

PRESS CIRCLES AS INOPPORTUNE. THE MESSAGE WAS BROADCAST BY ITALIAN
TELEVISION ON APRIL 25 IN A SATELLITE TRANSMISSION. ALTHOUGH
MOST COMMENTATORS RECOGNIZE THE CLEARLY HUMANITARIAN PURPOSE
OF WALDHEIM'S LATEST APPEAL, THEY ARE SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE
SECRETARY GENERAL'S CHOICE OF LANGUAGE WHICH THEY BELIEVE GOES
FURTHER THAN NECESSARY IN LEGITIMIZING THE RED BRIGADES (RB)
AND THEIR AIMS.

2. IN HIS STATEMENT, ADDRESSED DIRECTLY TO THE RED BRIGADES FROM "THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS," WALDEHIM ASSERTED: "YOU MUST CERTAINLY KNOW THAT YOU HAVE DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF THE ENTIRE WORLD WITH YOUR DEMANDS." CONTINUING TO HOLD MORO, THE UN LEADER SAID, "CAN ONLY DAMAGE YOUR OBJECTIVES, WHATEVER THEY ARE." WALDHEIM CONCLUDED BY APPEALING FOR MORO'S RELEASE, AN ACT THAT WOULD BE "RECEIVED WITH RELIEF BY THE ENTIRE WORLD AND ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DEVOTED THEIR LIVES TO THE SEARCH FOR A WORLD WHERE GREATER JUSTICE AND GREATER SOCIAL WELL-BEING MIGHT REIGN."

3. THE IMMEDIATE POLITICAL REACTION TO WALDHEIM'S INITIATIVE WAS ONE OF PERPLEXITY AND DISCOMFORT. WHILE MOST POLITICAL LEADERS REFRAINED FROM COMMENTING, REPUBLICAN PARTY PRESIDENT LA Malfa SAID THAT THE APPEAL EXCEEDED THE UNSYG'S COMPETENCE BY APPEARING TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE RB "AS IF THE FATE OF THE ITALIAN STATE DEPENDED ON IT." THE DC'S ATTITUDE COULD BE JUDGED BY THE EDITORIAL DECISION OF IL POPOLO TO BURY THE WALDHEIM MESSAGE WITHOUT COMMENT IN AN INNER-PAGE STORY. THE HARSHTEST POLITICAL REACTION CAME FROM THE COMMUNISTS. HEADLINING THE STORY "INOPPORTUNE POLITICAL REFERENCES," L'UNITA SAID THAT THE UNSYG'S APPEAL "MAKES THE ERROR OF POLITICIZING THE APPEAL FOR MORO'S LIFE MORE THAN NECESSARY." BY IDENTIFYING THE RB WITH THE "FORCES FOR PROGRESS" AND TELLING THEM THAT THEIR DEMANDS (RATHER THAN THEIR CRIMES) HAVE OBTAINED WORLD ATTENTION, L'UNITA ASSERTS THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ROME 07634 261754Z

SUCH POSITIONS WILL ONLY "RENDER THE CRIMINALS MORE INTRACTABLE."

4. ITALIAN PRESS REACTION WAS EQUALLY CRITICAL. CORRIERE DELLA SERA POINTED OUT THAT IN CONTRAST TO WALDHEIM'S FIRST "PERSONAL" APPEAL, THE TELEVISED MESSAGE WAS OFFICIAL IN CHARACTER. MILAN'S CONSERVATIVE IL GIORNALE SAID THAT WALDHEIM'S MESSAGE GAVE THE RB A POLITICAL DIGNITY THAT MUST NOT BE CONCEDED AT ANY COST. THE LEFTIST LA REPUBBLICA CALLED WALDHEIM'S LANGUAGE "ODD" AND QUOTED AN UNNAMED FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE COMPLAINING THAT THE UNSYG APPEARED TO BE ADDRESSING THE RB AS A GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN A "BAND OF CRIMINALS."

5. AS ANOTHER DAY PASSED APPARENTLY WITHOUT ANY WORD FROM MORO'S KIDNAPPERS, THE HIGHLY POSITIVE REACTION TO THE WALDHEIM MESSAGE FROM GUIO AND SPZZALI, DEFENSE LAWYERS FOR THE RB CURCIO GROUP CURRENTLY STANDING TRIAL IN TURIN, HAS ELICITED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. GUIO IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "THE DIRECT INTERVENTION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SEEMS THE ONLY POSSIBLE WAY." SPAZZALI NOTED THAT WALDHEIM'S LETTER DOES NOT REFER TO ANY CONDITIONS (THE POPE HAD APPEALED FOR MORO'S RELEASE "WITHOUT CONDITIONS"), THUS APPARENTLY NOT EXCLUDING THE ACCEPTABILITY OF SOME CONDITIONS. THE REFERENCE TO A MORE JUST WORLD, SPAZZALI SAID,

CONSTITUTED "A POLITICAL RECOGNITION" OF THE RB BY THEUNSYG.
SOME OBSERVERS INTERPRET GUIZO'S COMMENTS AS INDICATING THAT
THE RB REGARD NEGOTIATIONS WITH AN INTERNATIONAL "POLITICAL"
ORGANIZATION ACCEPTABLE AS OPPOSED TO AN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITA-
RIAN ORGANIZATION (I.E. CARITAS).GARDNER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECRETARY GENERAL, LOBBYING, KIDNAPPING, PRESS COMMENTS, PRISONERS RELEASE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME07634
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780178-0907
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780415/aaaaalun.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9fb82fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2842175
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN REACTION TO UNSYGI'S APPEAL TO RED BRIGADES
TAGS: PINT, IT, RED BRIGADES, (WALDHEIM, KURT), (MORO, ALDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9fb82fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014